



Barbiturates





Learning Objectives

- Identify the medical conditions barbiturates are prescribed for.
- Identify the effects that barbiturates have on the human body.





What are Barbiturates?

- Barbiturates are multi-colored pills and tablets that are classified as CNS Depressants.
- Barbiturates are often identified on the street by the color of the pill/tablet but are most often known as “Downers”.
- The most common type of synthetic sedatives.



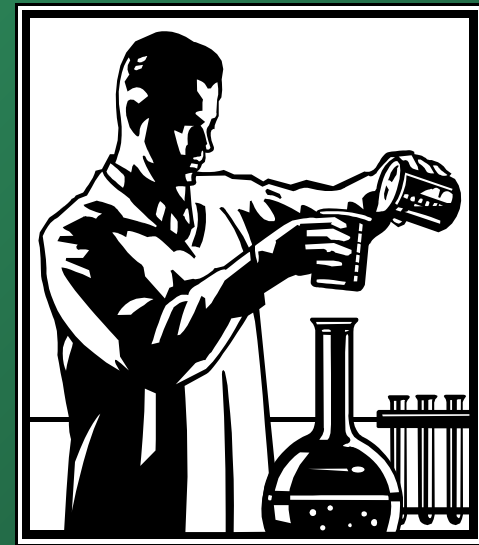


History of Barbiturates

1862 - Barbiturates were developed by Adolph von Bayer in 1862.

1903 - Put to use for the first time in medical practices.

Since 1903 - Over 2,000 types of barbiturates have been manufactured using Bayer's original formula.





Why are Barbiturates Used?

- Barbiturates are prescribed to treat several medical conditions.
 - Anxiety
 - Depression
 - Insomnia
 - AOD Withdrawal
- Barbiturates are also consumed to get “high”.
- Used by drug users to treat the unpleasant effects of other drugs.





How are Barbiturates Consumed?



- Orally - In pill, tablet or liquid form
- Injection -
 - Into the blood stream
 - Into muscle tissue
 - Directly under the skin
- Inserted into the body via suppository.





Effects of Barbiturates

Physical Effects

- Sleepiness
- Nausea
- Slurred Speech
- Breathing Disorders
- Reduced Sex Drive
- Coma

Psychological Effects

- Mild Euphoria
- Disinhibition
- Memory Impairment
- Increased Irritability
- Severe Paranoia
- Suicidal Thoughts





Barbiturate Testing in the Army

- Barbiturates can be detected in urine for 2-3 days after ingestion.
- The Army tests for the following barbiturates on a rotational schedule:
 - Butabital
 - Phenobarbital
 - Secobarbital
- The illegal use of barbiturates or any drug goes against Soldiers Values and Warrior Pride.





Additional Information

**Additional information on
barbiturates can be found by
contacting the Army Substance
Abuse Program or by visiting
www.acsap.army.mil.**

